

Appl. No. 10/692,557

Amdt. Dated 2/3/2005

Response to Office action dated 11/08/2004

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-4, 6-14, 16-26, 28-36, and 41 are pending. Claim 41 is new. No new matter has been added.

***Disclaimers Relating to Claim Interpretation and Prosecution History Estoppel***

Claims 1-4, 6-14, 16-26 and 28-36 have been amended, and claims 5, 15 and 27 have been canceled, notwithstanding the belief that these claims were allowable. Except as specifically admitted below, no claim elements have been narrowed. Rather, cosmetic amendments have been made to the claims and to broaden them in view of the cited art. Claims 1-4, 6-14, 16-26 and 28-36 have been amended solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process, and the amendments were not necessary for patentability.

Any reference herein to "the invention" is intended to refer to the specific claim or claims being addressed herein. The claims of this Application are intended to stand on their own and are not to be read in light of the prosecution history of any related or unrelated patent or patent application. Furthermore, no arguments in any prosecution history relate to any claim in this Application, except for arguments specifically directed to the claim.

***Telephone Interview 01/25/2005***

A telephone interview was conducted on January 25, 2005 at 2pm EST. The Practitioner submitted the following draft amendments to the Examiner for discussion:

1. (Currently amended) A support extension to which stage equipment may be attached, the support extension comprising:
  - a means for ~~accepting~~ receiving connection from a the T-handle of a stage equipment selected from the group comprising a fresnel lamp, an open faced lamp, a scoop lamp, a soft box, a flag, a net, a filter, a screen, and a reflector
  - a means for coupling ~~included in the means for accepting, the means for~~

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coupling including means for fastening the means for accepting support extension to a rail, the means for coupling being activated when the means for accepting support extension is rotated, wherein the support extension is adapted to fully support the stage equipment

a hole for receiving a pin for securing the stage equipment to the support extension.

12. (Currently amended) A support extension to which stage equipment may be attached, the support extension comprising:

a body

a wide groove adapted body to receive the a T-handle of a stage equipment selected from the group comprising a fresnel lamp, an open faced lamp, a scoop lamp, a soft box, a flag, a net, a filter, a screen, and a reflector, wherein the wide groove extends around a circumference of the body

a bolt coupled with the body, the bolt to be coupled to a rail by rotating the body, the bolt intruding into a cavity in the body when the body is rotated, wherein the support extension is adapted to fully support the stage equipment

a hole for receiving a pin for securing the stage equipment to the support extension.

The Examiner stated that the proposed claims were in functional form that they could be interpreted very broadly. Thus, the Examiner stated that the claims would likely be rejected using the same rationale. The Examiner agreed to a subsequent interview for January 29, 2005.

#### *Telephone Interview 01/29/2005*

A telephone interview was conducted on January 29, 2005 at 2pm EST. The Practitioner submitted the following draft amendment to the Examiner for discussion:

12. (Currently amended) A mounting system support extension to which stage equipment may be attached, the support extension comprising:

a support extension comprising

a body

a wide groove body to receive the stage equipment extending around a circumference of the body

a bolt coupled with the body, the bolt to be coupled to a rail by rotating the body, the bolt intruding into a cavity in the body when the body is rotated

a hole

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a T-handle of a stage equipment selected from the group comprising a fresnel lamp, an open faced lamp, a scoop lamp, a soft box, a flag, a net, a filter, a screen, and a reflector, wherein the T-handle is attached to the wide groove, wherein the support extension fully supports the stage equipment

a pin disposed through the hole, wherein the pin is securing the stage equipment to the support extension.

The Examiner stated that the proposed amendment had more structure than before and is more likely to define around the art used in the prior rejection. The Examiner and the Practitioner agreed that the independent claims would be amended consistent with this approach and an RCE would be filed prior to February 8, 2005.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7 and 8 under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by Parron (USP 4,677,794). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-4, 7 and 8 have been amended to overcome the rejection. In current form, claims 1-4, 7 and 8 are patentable over Parron.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 6 under 35 USC § 102(e) as anticipated by Ellbogen (USP 6,719,156). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to overcome the rejection. In current form, claims 1 and 6 are patentable over Ellbogen.

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***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 9 under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by Lo (USP 6,222,107). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to overcome the rejection. In current form claims 1 and 9 are patentable over Lo.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The Examiner rejected claims 12, 14, 16-18, 23, 24, 26, 28 and 29 under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by Ingram (USP 4,244,501). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 12, 14, 16-18, 23, 24, 26, 28 and 29 have been amended to overcome the rejection. In current form claims 12, 14, 16-18, 23, 24, 26, 28 and 29 are patentable over Ingram.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 10, 11, 12, 19-24, and 30-36 under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by Sigel (USP 5,794,901). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 10, 11, 12, 19-24, and 30-36 have been amended to overcome the rejection. In current form claims 1, 10, 11, 12, 19-24, and 30-36 are patentable over Sigel.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The Examiner rejected claims 13 and 25 under 35 USC § 103 as obvious from Ingram (USP 4,244,501). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 13 and 25 have been amended to overcome the rejection. In current form claims 13 and 25 are patentable over Ingram.

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***Conclusion***

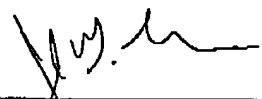
It is submitted, however, that the independent and dependant claims include other significant and substantial recitations which are not disclosed in the cited references. Thus, the claims are also patentable for additional reasons. However, for economy the additional grounds for patentability are not set forth here.

In view of all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested and allowance at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney to answer any questions or to discuss steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 3, 2005

  
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